

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of checking a validity of a first path indicating a first resource in a network, the method comprising:

- 5 providing the first path to a server to retrieve the first resource from the network;
receiving a first response from the server;
from the first response, determining the validity of the first path; and
if the first path is invalid,
10 (i) generating a second path from the first path, the second path being a sub-path of the first path.

2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

- (ii) providing the second path to the server to retrieve from the network a second resource indicated by the second path;
15 (iii) receiving a second response from the server;
(iv) from the second response, determining a validity of the second path; and,
if the second path is valid,
associating the second path with a user interface element associated with the first path.

20 3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising

- if the second path is invalid,
repeating steps (i) to (iv) to determine a validity of at least a sub-path of the second path until a specific sub-path of the second path is valid; and,
25 associating the specific sub-path with the user interface element.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first path is associated with a bookmark in a Web browser.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first path is associated with a link in a Web page.

30 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first path comprises a series of hierarchical locations in the network and the second path is obtained by removing at least a lower hierarchical location from the first path.

35 7. The method of Claim 2, further comprising:

- replacing the first path associated with the user interface element by the second path.

8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
causing a sound effect to represent a validity level of the first path.
- 5 9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
causing a display of a visual effect to represent a validity level of the first path.
10. The method of Claim 9, further comprising:
displaying a user interface element associated with the first path at a location on a
10 display based on the validity level of the first path.
11. The method of Claim 9, further comprising:
modifying a graphical representation of a user interface element, associated with the first
path, on the basis of the validity level of the first path.
- 15 12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first path is a uniform resource identifier.
13. A computer program comprising computer readable instructions for carrying out a
method of checking a validity of a first path indicating a first resource in a network, the method
20 comprising:
providing the first path to a server to retrieve the first resource from the network;
receiving a first response from the server;
from the first response, determining the validity of the first path; and,
if the first path is invalid,
25 (i) generating a second path from the first path, the second path being a sub-path of the
first path.
14. The computer program of Claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:
(ii) providing the second path to the server to retrieve from the network a second
30 resource indicated by the second path;
(iii) receiving a second response from the server;
(iv) from the second response, determining a validity of the second path;
if the second path is valid,
associating the second path with a user interface element associated with the first path.
- 35 15. The computer program of Claim 14, wherein the method further comprises:

if the second path is invalid,
 repeating steps (i) to (iv) to determine a validity of at least a sub-path of the second
 path until a specific sub-path of the second path is valid; and,
 associating the specific sub-path with the user interface element.

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16. The computer program of Claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:
 causing a display of a visual effect to represent a validity level of the first path.

17. The computer program of Claim 13, wherein the computer program is a browser.

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18. The computer program of Claim 13, wherein the computer program is a server.

19. A device comprising:
 storage means for storing a first path indicating a first resource in a network;
 validity checking means for checking a validity of the first path,
 the validity checking means being configured to provide the first path to a server to
 retrieve the first resource from the network, to receive a first response from the server and to
 determine the validity of the first path from the first response; and
 if the first path is invalid,

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the validity checking means is configured to generate a second path from the first path,
 the second path being a sub-path of the first path.

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20. The device of Claim 19, wherein
 the validity checking means is configured to provide the second path to the server to
 retrieve from the network a second resource indicated by the second path, to receive a second
 response from the server and to determine a validity of the second path from the second
 response; and,
 if the second path is valid,

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the validity checking means is configured to associate the second path with a user
 interface element associated with the first path.

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21. The device of Claim 19, further comprising
 displaying means for displaying a graphical user interface comprising the user interface
 element;

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and wherein the validity checking means is configured to cause a visual effect on the graphical
 user interface to represent a validity level of the first path.